

ALL'S FAIR

By
Pat Cook

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It is time again for the Noah County Fair. Flat Rock, Texas, is known for many things, most of which get spread around town by Audrey and Beryl, the town gossips. And they have plenty to talk about, whether it's Mayor Clatterhand, who's running for office again, or Lola Jackstraw, who runs the high school cafeteria and is opposing the Mayor in this year's upcoming election. "Are you tired of leftovers?" she announces over the loud speakers, "Or do you want somethin' fresh!"

And the exhibits this year include "Nature's Boo-Boos," where teenager Tommy Rogers feels right at home, especially when he tries to do "Shakespeare in the Park" only to be cut short by the bombastic Mayor.

And some of the charities are hoping to do well this year. For instance, the Ladies Auxiliary for Better Foliage is hoping for a hedge around the courthouse to "keep all them dogs from frequenting it!" Another group is hoping to get the school bus repainted yellow instead of camouflage because as one resident says, "The bus sits there waitin' fer the kids and they can't find it!"

Love is in the air even though fortune-teller Cyrus Holcomb keeps ducking Margaret June Muncie, and teenager Gloria Pinkham only has eyes for Tommy.

This riotous but loving look at country life is chock-full of wisecracks and homespun wisdom. It is also just the vehicle for multi-talented players, who play two, three and sometimes four characters. From the same author who brought you "Luau For King Lear," and "The Hitchin' Post." So take your shoes off, pick up a cup of lemonade and find out why in Noah County, as far as a country carnival goes, "All's Fair."

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(11 m, 13 w. With doubling 4 m, 5 w)

MAYOR CAESAR CLATTERHAND: Pompous politician.
FIONA CLATTERHAND: Nagging, long-suffering wife.
LULA MORRIS: Self-important senior citizen.
DORIS JANE SHUNTLEMEYER: Anxious jelly maker.
HAP SHUNTLEMEYER: Doris Jane's bored husband.
TYRONE DARSY: High school drama teacher.
AUDREY HINKLE: Town gossip.
BERYL LUNDARROW: Also a gossip and Audrey's pal.
TOURIST: Visitor from the North.
TOMMY ROGERS: Teenager who feels out of place.
GLORIA PINKHAM: Teenager smitten with Tommy.
CYRUS HOLCOMB: Local bachelor and glad of it.
NELDA MCELROY: Barker for the fortune teller.
MARGARET JUNE MUNCIE: Woman trying to catch Cyrus.
MOM: Tourist who's camera-happy.
VIRGIL: Mom's husband.
KAYLYNN: Mom's daughter.
BLUE SHUNTLEMEYER: Teenager with a prize pig.
IOLA JACKSTRAW: Lunch lady who's running for Mayor.
SKEETER BLATCH: Spoon-player extraordinaire.
ELDON FONTENELLE: Slightly dim-witted farmer.
CORA DONDELINGER: Opinionated seller of beef jerky.
ORTHO GLUPP: Jelly contest judge.
MYRA PELTIER: Also jelly contest judge.

OPTIONS FOR DOUBLING

MAN ONE: Mayor, Tourist, Eldon.
MAN TWO: Hap, Cyrus.
MAN THREE: Tyrone, Virgil, Skeeter, Ortho.
MAN FOUR: Tommy, Blue.
WOMAN ONE: Fiona, Audrey, Mom.
WOMAN TWO: Doris Jane, Cora.
WOMAN THREE: Lula, Margaret June, Iola.
WOMAN FOUR: Beryl, Nelda.
WOMAN FIVE: Gloria, Kaylynn, Myra.

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Time: Autumn, current day.

Setting: Area settings include a platform with steps USC; a park bench at one side of the stage; and at the other of the stage a table with chairs and wall behind them. All areas are decorated for the fair.

PROPS

Wad of bills	Purses
\$100 dollar bill	Balloons
Perfume spray	Tic tacs
Cups of soda	Sword and shield
Bills	Purse and \$10 dollar bill
Corndog	Camera
Rope	Hat
Cards	Bills
Spoons	Microphone
Card	Soda cans
Popsicle sticks	Crumpled paper
Ears of corn	Cup of tea
Tray	Bills
Jars	Spoon
Handkerchief	Pen
1 st prize ribbon	Cup and two straws

SOUNDS EFFECTS

Stirring marching band	Crowd and car noises
Microphone squeal	Thud
Breaking glass	Board getting hit
Large bell ringing	Thud and man yelling
Pig snort	Spoons being played
Applause	Loud explosion

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ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The SOUND of a stirring marching band plays, probably a high school band, from somewhere nearby. LIGHTS come up on the DSR bench where MAYOR CLATTERHAND stands wearing a loud striped coat and holding a wad of bills.)

MAYOR: Y'all come, y'all come! Right this way to the Noah County Fair. It's only onced a year and a lot a'us a mighty glad a'that! Hurry, hurry, git over here! Don't dawdle. Buy yer tickets and take yer chances.

FIONA: *(Offstage, yelling.)* Will you quit yellin'?!

MAYOR: I'm sellin' tickets to the fair, I'm SUPPOSED to yell, woman!

FIONA: They can see you is sellin' tickets, they ain't stupid, you know!

MAYOR: Which one of 'em are you talkin' about?

FIONA: Is anybody comin' yet?

MAYOR: *(Yells back.)* No.

FIONA: What?

MAYOR: No, I said. I don't see a one!

FIONA: That's probably 'cause yer scarin' 'em off, lookin' like you do!

MAYOR: Shut up!

(FIONA ENTERS SR.)

FIONA: *(Straightening MAYOR'S coat.)* First, yer chargin' ever'body to park and now yer chargin' 'em to get into the fair.

MAYOR: Hey, I'm the Mayor! I can do whatever I deem necessary! And this year we are gonna make a profit on this thing if it harelips ever'body on Caddo Creek! And what with the election comin' up, that'll look good fer my platform. *(HE grabs HER hands.)* Stop pickin' at me, woman!

FIONA: Oh, you jist look fer any excuse to wear that horrible coat.

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MAYOR: My MOTHER made this coat.

FIONA: Yer mother is practically blind.

MAYOR: She is not.

FIONA: How come she's always running into our furniture?

MAYOR: How come you always put furniture in her way?

FIONA: And then she makes that there coat outta old couch material. And then whenever you go and sit on her couch, you totally disappear 'cept for yer head. *(SHE leans in to the MAYOR.)* And that's the part I have the most problems with!

(LULA ENTERS SR, digging in her purse.)

MAYOR: You never did like my mother! *(Smiling at LULA.)*
Hidy, Mrs. Morris.

LULA: *(Nods.)* Mayor.

FIONA: Well, she never liked me! *(Smiling to LULA.)* Lula.

LULA: Fiona. How much is the ticket? I done already paid that whiney kid a'yers three dollars to park my car.

MAYOR: Three dollars to git in, Lula.

LULA: *(Aghast.)* Three dollars?!

FIONA: It's a sin, ain't it?

LULA: It is that. *(Still digging in HER purse.)*

MAYOR: *(To FIONA.)* Will you go someplace? Preferably away?

FIONA: Are you entered in the jelly competition, Lula?

LULA: Of course, jist like always. And I hope the grand prize this year will cover what I have to shell out jist to git in this thing.

MAYOR: It's fer a good cause.

LULA: You say that ever' year. *(To FIONA.)* What's it for?

FIONA: His campaign.

LULA: *(Eying the MAYOR.)* Uh HUH!

MAYOR: Oh, it is not! Three dollars, Mrs. Morris.

LULA: I cain't believe you let him wear that coat agin.

FIONA: Like I can stop him? *(SHE looks at MAYOR.)* I swear, next time he falls asleep I'm gonna burn that thing, bury the ashes and build a gazebo on top of it.

MAYOR: Three dollars.

LULA: What if I only stay until the judgin'?

End of Freeview

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